U. S. Br. Mint New Orleans
June 14th 1859—

To
Thomas Slidell Esq
U. S. Dist Atty—

Sir

In Conformity with your request desiring me to make in writing a Statement of the facts and circumstances relative to the removal of a Leaf from the weigh Book of Silver Bullion of this Branch Mint, and also any other facts deemed important in the enquiry into the General Conduct and proceedings in the weighing department, I respectfully Submit the following—

On the 18th of April last I entered on the duties of weighing Clerk in the Treasurers Office, filling the Place that had for sometime previously been Occupied by Mr Dimitry, who after this was Occupied in Keeping the books. Being necessarily unacquainted with the routine of business in my new Situation, I had to rely a good deal for information upon Mr Dimitry, to whom I had been referred for that Purpose by the Superintendent.— Shortly after I had entered on my Duties I was informed by Mr Dimitry that orders had been rec'd from the Superintendent to Change the Plan that had been pursued in relation to Small Deposites.— The usual Course had been to send all Deposites however small immediately to to the Melter, but ~~this~~ the order now was to retain all deposites of good Mexican or South American dollars, the standard of which is generally uniform, until they should amount to $2000 which is equal to a full melt and further that all other deposites consisting of mixed coins or bullion, were to be sent immediately to the Melter.—

There were at this time several small deposites that had been recd, regularly entered on the weigh Book at the average weight of 86.50 ozs per $100. not sent to the Melter but still retained in the vault according to orders till they should amount to a full melt, this practice was however found to derange necessarily the regular numbers of the deposites for immediate melting, so as that those numbers could not practically follow in regular consecutive order. in order to avoid this difficulty and restore regularity in numbering, it was determined that when those small deposites amounted to a melt, they should be entered in the weigh book, as one deposite in the name of some one person a Clerk or one of the depositors with his consent, and in the mean time a separate memorandum book should be kept in which the small deposites should be regularly entered, as received in order to designate the owners thereof, and to apportion the same after the general melt and assay.

Accordingly this plan was adopted and pursued in all cases where the small deposites are retained for a full melt.

A few deposites had been melted (three or four) and returned under numbers corresponding with the weigh Book but out of consecutive order, to restore which Mr Dimitry changed the numbers in the weigh Book to their regular order, and in doing so blotted the leaves not so much however as to render illegible the former numbering and suggested that it would be best to remove the sheet that he had blotted altogether and proceed with the regular numbering thereafter by which all confusion would be avoided, and accordingly I removed the sheet from the weigh Book and it is the same herewith exhibited.—

The weigh Book was always left in the weigh room subject to the inspection of the Melter, or any of the Officers. Mr Maxwell was in the habit of transferring the entries from the weigh Book to one of his own, and I saw the entry of the Damian Casas deposite in his book, he was in the habit of receiving the bullion immediately from the weigher, and afterwards transferring the entries from this weigh book to his register, the day before Mr Maxwell addressed a letter a copy whereof is hereunto annexed to the Superintendent requesting an investigation of the Treasurers Books he came into the weigh room and an altercation ensued between him and Mr Dimitry in relation to the Damian Casas deposite, he denying that he had received it, during the altercation the Superintendent being present requested me to state what I knew on the subject, I said that I knew nothing of the deposite of Damian Casas except that it had been entered in the weigh book, as having been

Melted (the same having been done before I took charge of the weigh Room) and that it had been assayed and of course could not have been assayed without having been melted – It was on that occasion that I first mentioned to the Superintendent that I had removed a Sheet from the weigh book, this was in the Presence of Mr Maxwell the displaced Sheet was on that day handed to the Superintendent by me it had been torn and thrown in the fire place, when removed, not being considered of any importance when I found it

Very Respectfully Your

Humble Servant

R. Parker

Mr Parkers Statement
June 18

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Mr Parker Statement
June 14/58